

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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GRAND JURY INDICTS MAN FOR DOWNTOWN BANK ROBBERY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced a defendant was indicted by a federal grand jury today for bank robbery.

Charles E. Townsend, Jr., 34, address unknown, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Townsend** took by threat of force, violence or intimidation, \$1,097 from the Bank of America, located at 1200 Main St., in Kansas City, on Dec. 22, 2003.

Townsend was originally charged in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on Jan. 8, 2004, in Kansas City. Today's indictment replaces that criminal complaint.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, **Townsend** robbed the bank on Dec. 22, 2003. He entered the bank, approached a teller and told the teller he needed \$1,500, after handing the teller a demand note and a brown envelope.

Approximately two weeks later law enforcement officers received a tip from a person who believed she recognized a photo of **Townsend**. He was arrested the same day on Jan. 7, 2004.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the indictment is simply an accusation and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney K. Michael Warner. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow